



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

Here it is -- finally! The first ISASC newsletter, being mailed January 5th (with apologies, but as you'll be able to tell from all the "bulk," it wasn't easy).

First off, happy New Year to all of you, and may 1977 be noted as the year in which ISASC officially got underway and friendships flourished among its members.

This newsletter, although the first, is not to be considered a model in any way, shape or form. It will include much that "typical" newsletters will not, particularly the master list of members, the calendar for newsletter mailings, and some suggestions for standardizing their format. More importantly, each participating member is expected only to write whatever comes to mind, in whatever style feels comfortable, and of whatever length he chooses.

That having been said, please observe the following practices as they apply to format only: (1) type your newsletter; (2) leave a left-hand margin on each page of at least one inch (some members may choose to three-hole punch their copies and keep them in a notebook, or mount them in a binder of some sort); (3) use only one side of a sheet of paper, regardless of the number of sheets; (4) use plain white paper for the original, and keep it in your possession; (5) make copies on plain, unlined white paper, as lightweight as possible (Xerox copiers and other kinds now can make copies on ordinary, untreated paper); (6) in the U.S., use standard-sized paper, 8½" x 11"; in the U.K. and elsewhere in Europe, use standard-sized paper, 8¼" x 11-3/4"; (7) use plain white envelopes for mailing, and put your return address on the envelope; (8) mail your newsletter the 1st day of the month assigned to you, regardless of whether you've received previous ones according to the schedule (the mails, unfortunately, can't always be depended on); (9) lastly, and most important, if your mailing address changes, it becomes your responsibility to notify all members.

The enclosed calendar indicates each member's name, mailing address, and phone number; first name of spouse (if any) in parentheses; and a brief description of the member's collection, extracted from information furnished in his application. The purpose in doing this is to acquaint each member with the kinds of scales and weights that other members collect, and, thus, if he or she so chooses, to correspond directly with other collectors rather than rely exclusively on the newsletter exchange.

Enough, now, of such mundane matters. Here, somewhat in stream-of-consciousness fashion, are some views regarding my collection, some recent experiences, news of ISASC, and whatever else comes to mind that hopefully is of interest to you.

For the record, I have been collecting postal scales (letter and parcel) for close to 25 years, and my collection now numbers 245. It was an early decision not to collect all kinds of scales, for which I'm eternally grateful. Had I collected all kinds, by now I surely would need an attic, basement, garage and perhaps a barn to contain them all!

As it is, most of my scales are relatively small in size, and, except for 17 in my office, are kept at home in virtually every room of our apartment, on shelves, tables, desks, dressers and every other conceivable flat surface. It's an understatement to say that they quickly catch the eye of a visitor. About three-fifths of the collection are of English origin and the balance are U.S. Rather than go on at great length about them, I'm enclosing an article published in an antique magazine about five years ago which fully describes the collection, even though it only numbered 140 scales at the time.

At this stage of my collecting life, I'm sorry to report that the usual sources in the U.S. where I've found most of my scales have virtually dried up. Perhaps this is more true of postal scales than of other kinds, but the sad fact is that when I visit antique shows at home in Chicago or wherever my travels take me, I simply can't find more than an occasional scale or two of the most ordinary kind, and the rare exception that I do find and covet is invariably so overpriced that I just can't justify buying it.

In addition to antique shows no longer being a source of supply, the various antique markets where I've shopped over the years either offer next to nothing or have virtually disappeared. This particularly includes New York City (2nd and 3rd Avenues - Midtown, and 12th, 13th and 14th Streets, off Broadway - downtown) and New Orleans (Royal Street), as well as the dozen-and-one well-known streets of antique stores in smaller cities around the U.S.

All is not gloom, however, because Margie (my wife) and I went to England in September of '75, and, lo and behold, managed to find 32 letter and parcel scales worthy of adding to our collection. All came to light by diligently going to every antique market in greater London -- morning and afternoon -- during a full week's time (the 2nd week was spent visiting 150 to 200 antique shops from the Cotswold to Edinburgh and it netted not one scale!). London was a windfall beyond our wildest dreams, so much so that we returned there this past September, and in two weeks' time, never straying from the city, acquired 33 scales! It was as if we had

received a new lease on life, and presently we're planning to return to London next September, hopeful that our good luck will continue.

A number of additional pleasures came from our London trips. We met collectors Michael Crawford, Arthur Middleton (dealer-collector), Brian Brass, Derrick Bradbury, John Mussell, Alex Renton, and Dennis Vorley, a number of whom share their collections and their collecting with their wives. Meeting fellow collectors in England was as rewarding an experience as finding new sources of scales, and we spent many pleasant hours with our new friends.

As a matter of fact, when the history of ISASC is written, let it be noted that the first "official" ISASC convention was held Saturday, September 25, 1976, at Durrants Hotel in London, following a morning foray at Portobello. In attendance were the Crawforths, Rentons, Dennis Vorley, John Mussell, and the Steins, and several hours passed all too swiftly as all showed their latest acquisitions, exchanged anecdotes, and talked about their collections in an engrossing way that only fellow collectors would understand.

While on the subject of England, some of you may not know that a scale museum of considerable renown is located in Worcestershire, under the auspices of W. & T. Avery Ltd., the world's largest scale manufacturer. It's a fascinating place to visit, and the museum's curator has written me and extended an invitation to ISASC members to avail themselves of any information contained in the museum's records. If you're interested, write to D. W. Ellis, Curator, Avery Historical Museum, W. & T. Avery Ltd., Smethwick, Warley, Worcestershire, England B66 2LP.

About ISASC, I can't begin to tell you how excited I am about the way our society has taken roots. Much of the credit for its existence belongs to Michael Crawforth, who badgered me (properly so) into doing something to get the society activated after my having done nothing more than talk about it for a number of years. Now it's a reality, and as you can tell from the enclosed list, we've got 35 members and more to come, I'm sure. The number in California alone -- 11 -- is enough to start a state chapter and hold a regional convention!

ISASC also has "officially" appeared in print, which, in turn, has led to our acquiring a new member. It all began when I was approached

by a Chicago photographer who needed a scale for an ad being prepared for an Armour pharmaceutical product with the brand name, believe it or not, of "LETTER". What could be more appropriate than a letter scale, and this I provided in return for a rental fee and a mention of ISASC in the text of the ad. A few months later I received an inquiry about our society from one Peter DiCristofaro, a registered pharmacist and scale collector, who undoubtedly saw the ad (copy enclosed) and proceeded to do some detective work to learn my name and whereabouts.

Also enclosed are two other pieces which deserve some explanation. One, a flyer picturing six of my scales, was printed several years ago when these particular scales were stolen from my collection while it was on display in a major Chicago museum. I distributed the flyer far and wide, originally offering a reward for knowledge leading to recovery of the scales, but nothing came of it. I've since replaced the hand scale and the steelyard "boy" scale, but three especially precious ones -- the two with Wedgewood medallions and the one with decorative porcelain inset in the plates -- seem to be gone forever. Needless to say, if you own or come across any that are similar to those I've lost, I'd deeply appreciate the opportunity to discuss purchasing them.

The other enclosure is a descriptive flyer about ISASC prepared at the suggestion of Michael Crawforth (who also did the drawings) for use as a handout by antique dealers to scale collectors they meet. We've had the flyers produced in quantity, so if you know of any dealers who are willing to be on the lookout for prospective members, let me know and I'll send you a dozen flyers to pass along to them.

While on the subject of articles and the like, you might like to know that I've just completed an article for Antique Finder, an English antique magazine, which should appear this coming spring. I'm arranging for reprints, and when they're ready I'll send a copy to each ISASC member, rather than wait 'til my turn comes up for my next newsletter (which would seem to be about three years down the road, based on the current number of newsletter participants).

Another subject well worth mentioning is that of trading. I'd done none of it until Margie and I went to London in 1975 and found -- and bought for trading -- exact look-alikes of two handsome scales we'd acquired earlier in the week. The next week we visited the Crawforths and when we each saw so many scales in the other's collection that we wished we had in our own, we decided then and there

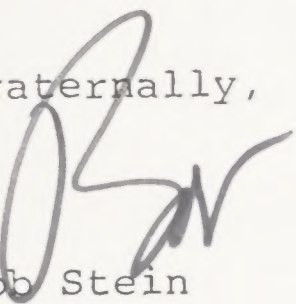
to look for duplicates and others which didn't "fit" into our own collection and use them to trade with each other. Since that time, Michael and I have done considerable trading and I've also traded scales and/or weights with Albert Eaches, Joel Malter, and Bill Doniger. I presently have a dozen or so scales of various sorts, along with several sets of weights, that I'm willing to trade, so if you're at all interested, let me know and we'll start "negotiations" (remember, though, I'm only interested in letter and parcel scales).

One other "collectible" Margie and I are starting to acquire (but which we're not yet serious about) is stamp boxes. They're somewhat allied to our letter scales, and we have five pocket ones in silver and three of the type that are kept on desks -- one in Delft, one in silver and one in brass. We'd like to know if any of you collect these or know of anyone who does. If so, I'd appreciate the briefest of notes letting me know what you know.

And now my newsletter is done and my respite earned, although I'm sure I'll be corresponding with (and visiting) a number of you in the months and years to come. Meanwhile, I'll do what's necessary to keep ISASC alive and well, and to keep our newsletter exchange going. In that regard, if you come across any collectors who as yet are not members, send me their names and I'll sign them up and add them to our newsletter calendar. And if anything happens that delays or prevents you from writing your own newsletter, let me know and I'll alter the calendar so the monthly schedule is maintained.

For now and in the future, good health and happy collecting.

Fraternally,



Bob Stein



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

Mini-Newsletter from Bob Stein

Little did I realize when I sent out my first newsletter that I'd be writing another one, however short, so soon. So much for my three-year respite. However, a number of ideas from other members have been sent to me, along with some names of prospective members to contact, so it seems I can do no less than pass along the ideas and update the membership list and newsletter calendar. My thanks to Albert Eaches, who graciously agreed to include this with his newsletter. Here we go --

IDEA #1 - If you'd like the ISASC masthead to grace the front page of your newsletter (as it did on Michael Crawforth's), all you need do is cut the masthead off this page and paste it on the top of your first sheet. It will reproduce satisfactorily, and you can save the original for future use.

IDEA #2 - If your newsletter runs several pages in length, it can mean a substantial postal savings to you, especially with overseas mail, if you reproduce it on both sides of a sheet.

IDEA #3 - On that same subject, and regardless of the length of your newsletter, if the cost of overseas postage is difficult for you to manage (more likely if you reside outside the U.S. and have to mail to 27 members within the U.S.), you may want to use sea mail. It will slow up receipt of your newsletter, but that shouldn't bother anybody.

IDEA #4 - If you have something you'd like to send to our members after you've mailed your once-in-three-years newsletter (an article reprint, for example), you might contact the member who is next scheduled to send out a newsletter and ask that your material be included (assuming, of course, that it's brief and/or lightweight). You then can send him/her your material in bulk, thus saving the cost and work involved with a separate mailing. (This is exactly what I did with this one.)

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IDEA #5 - A "Scales and Weights for Sale" newsletter feature. It can be a listing in your own newsletter, or, if yours has already gone out and you'd rather not wait until your turn comes up again, you can send your listing to the member of the next-to-be-published newsletter, who can include it with his own such listing and/or any others he may have received.

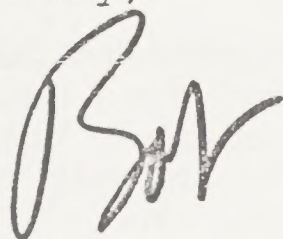
IDEA #6 - A similar feature, "Scales and Weights for Trade" can be similarly maintained.

So much for ideas. Below are listings for two new members, typed in the same style as the original list, so you can cut them from this sheet and tape them to your list as additions.

Also, change "Michael Crawforth" to "Michael and Diana Crawforth." They both actively collect and prefer to be considered a team. Diana would like to write her own newsletter, which she will either send out sometime in the future on a date of her own choosing, or which will accompany Michael's (two-for-the-price-of-one) the next time a Crawforth newsletter is due.

That's all for now.

Cordially,



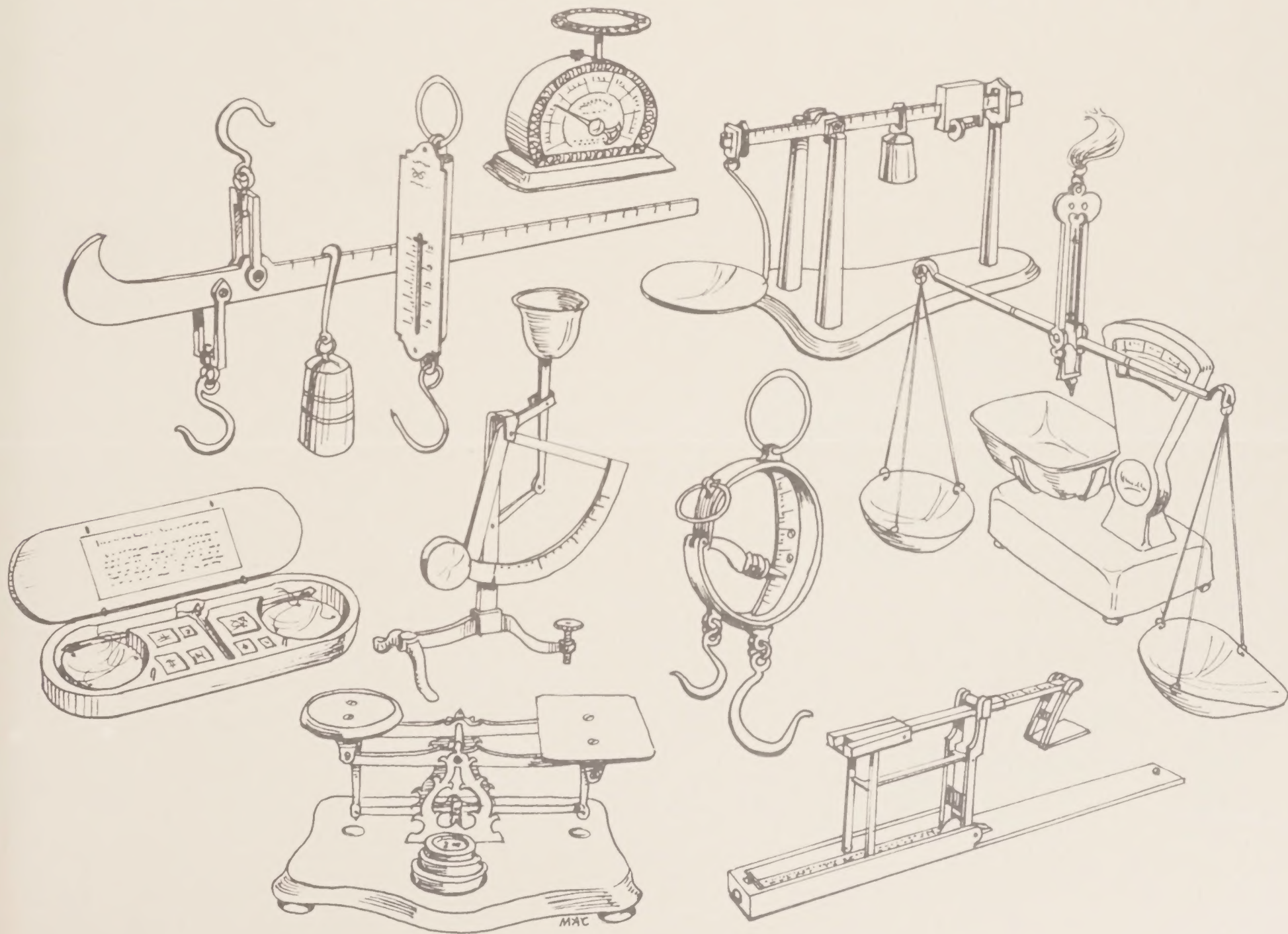
December 1, 1979 <i>Calif wts + measures dept agricultural</i>	Herb Chandler (Iona) (916) 662-4320	18 W. Marshall Ave. Woodland, CA 95695 U.S.A.	250 scales; 20 sets of weights. Wide variety. "My main interests are gold balances and counterfeit coin detectors."
January 1, 1980	Max Gasser (Gloria) (301) 493-4217	10508 Montrose Ave. Bethesda, Maryland 20014 U.S.A.	3 scales; two sovereign balances, one dial coin tester.

ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

ISASC was founded so that people who share an interest in scales and weights could form friendships, correspond and meet with each other, and, in general, enhance the pleasures of collecting. ISASC members, numbering about 25 at the time the society was started (and still growing), are mainly located in the U. S. and the U. K. Their collections are quite varied in content and number, ranging from a dozen or so to several hundred or more. The sketches below are a random sampling of the types of scales collected.

ISASC welcomes new members, and attaches no restriction to membership other than an interest in scales and weights. There are no dues or membership costs. Presently, the society sponsors a newsletter exchange, which enables participants to regularly exchange news and views. If you are interested and would like more information or a membership application, write to either address below. You'll be most welcome as a member.



In the U. S. -- Bob Stein, 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Il 60606
In the U. K. -- Michael Crawforth, 31 Park Lea, Sunderland, England SR3 3TA

